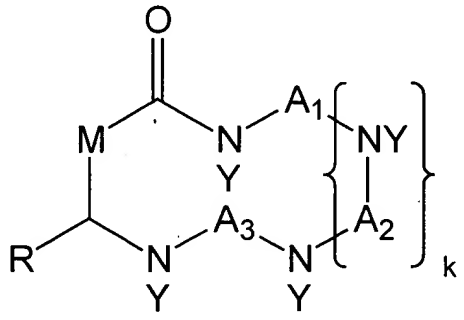
AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 15, 19, 24, 26, and 44 as follows:

15. A method of synthesizing a compound of the formula



wherein A_1, each A_2 (if present), and A_3 are independently selected from C_1-C_8 alkyl;

wherein each Y is independently selected from H or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

wherein M is selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl;

wherein k is 0, 2, or 3;

and wherein R is selected from C_1-C_{32} alkyl;

comprising the steps of:

reacting an ω-halo alkyl alkanoate with an aldehyde or ketone-containing compound to give an alkene-containing alkanoate compound;

reacting the alkene-containing alkanoate compound with a compound containing two primary amino groups and optionally containing secondary amino groups to effect addition of one of the amino groups across the double bond;

cyclizing the other amino group with the alkanoate group to form an amide bond; and

optionally alkylating the secondary amino groups if present.

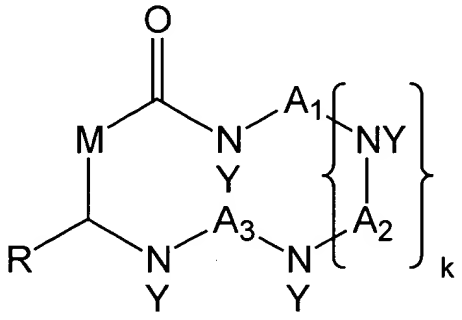
A2

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the compound containing two primary amino groups is selected from the group consisting of H_2N-A_1-$(NH$-$A_2)_k$-NH-A_3-NH_2

wherein A_1, each A_2 (if present), and A_3 are independently selected from C_1-C_8 alkyl and k is 0, 2, or 3.

24. A method of synthesizing a compound of the formula

A3



wherein A_1 is C_3 alkyl, and each A_2 (if present) and A_3 are independently selected from C_1-C_8 alkyl;

wherein each Y is independently selected from H or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

wherein M is selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl;

wherein k is 0, 2, or 3;

and wherein R is selected from C_1-C_{32} alkyl;

comprising the steps of:

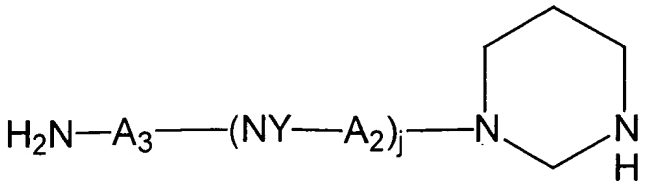
condensing a compound comprising a primary amino group and a hexahydropyrimidine moiety with an α,β-unsaturated ester compound such that the primary amino group adds at the β-position of the unsaturated ester compound, whereby the primary amino group is converted to a secondary amino group;

cleaving the methylene bridge of the hexahydropyrimidine moiety to generate a secondary amino group and a newly-generated primary amino group; and

condensing the newly-generated primary amino group with the ester group to form an amide group.

A4

26. The method of claim 24, wherein the compound comprising a primary amino group and a hexahydropyrimidine moiety is of the formula



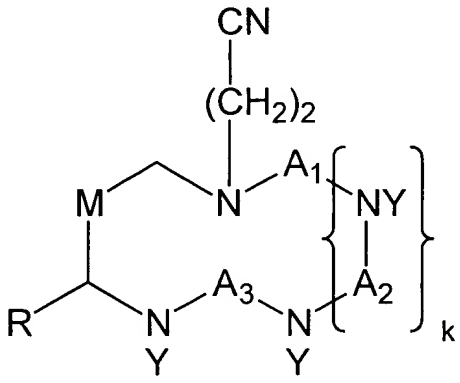
wherein each A_2 (if present) and A_3 are independently selected from C_1-C_8 alkyl;

wherein each Y is independently selected from H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; and

wherein j is 0, 2, or 3.

44. A method of synthesizing a compound of claim 37, wherein A_4 is C_3 alkyl and X is $-NH_2$, comprising reducing the nitrile group of a compound of the formula

A5



to an amino group.